

From Constantine to Cake: the Story of the Two Witnesses

Characters:

Baker/Narrator

Constantine

Helena

Courtier

Lucius

Paulus

Extras (4)

Witness 1

Witness 2

Witness 3

Pope

Pope Soldiers (2)

Cardinal

Coligny

Henry, King of Navarre

Philippe

Francis

Charles, King of France

Catharine, Queen Mother

Margarite, Princess of France

Henry, Duke of Guise

Pierre

Priest

Bridesmaids (2)

Court Painter

Assassin

Doctor

King's Soldier 1

King's Soldier 2

King's Soldier 3 (non speaking)

Commoner 1

Commoner 2

Commoner 3

Huguenot 1

Huguenot 2

Huguenot 3

Huguenot Woman

Huguenot Extras

Swiss Representative

British Representative

Dutch Representative

Scene 1:

Baker enters from back of audience carrying a secretive paper bag, manages to sneak around various sets of palace guards before getting up to stage and opening bag to reveal cupcake inside.

BAKER: Oh hello strangers! You must be visitors to these parts – you’ll forgive me for saying but you don’t look very French to me...*or very Catholic*. You must be here for the celebrations? The days are so busy in the palace – I’m up before the cock crows mixing and kneading, baking and basting. I’m ready for a rest. You know, this celebration really goes back a long time – to another palace over 1000 years ago when another King – and his domineering mother – were at a religious crossroads; when for the peace of their empire they chose to support error instead of truth. You might remember what I’m talking about – when in 325 AD Emperor Constantine, with the prompting of his mother Helena, called for the Council of Nicea. *(exits off stage left)*

Constantine’s throne set up centre stage, second throne next to it for Helena. Two benches on either side of throne set at angles

Drums and music plays, Lucius/Paulus and entourage enter and sit on benches, cymbals sound signaling Constantine, Helena and guards entrance. Everyone stands while King/Queen enter and sit down, then also sit down. Once everyone is settled, Constantine rises, walks to centre front of stage and addresses audience.

CON: *(with an air of great confidence mixed with a bit of disdain, standing up to begin)* As you know, I have called this meeting today to decide what the truth of the Bible is. The struggle that has been going on within the Christian church has gone on long enough – and it *(confidently)* **will** end. Today it will be decided whether Jesus Christ was the son of God, or God himself.

(Speaking directly to Paulus and Lucius) I urge you, Gentlemen, to present your arguments clearly. There must be harmony and peace within the Church so that there may be unity within the Great Roman Empire.

(Constantine settles himself back into his throne and Paulus stands up)

PAULUS: My lord, I am grateful for the opportunity today to share the Truth of the Bible, as was taught by Jesus himself. I make no arguments of my own but present to you now the Word of God as it is in the Holy Bible, the only authority we have on important matters such as this.

What do the Scriptures say? Listen, please, as I read the words of Jesus himself! He said, “I can do nothing of my own authority.” *(pause)* “I come not to do mine own will, but the will of Him who sent me.” The Lord Jesus was a very extraordinary man – but He *was* a man and the Son of God. *(Motions to CON)* The Roman Empire uses the same idea in their own government: authority descends in stages from higher to lower. Your royal majesty may give authority to other men to act on your behalf, but this does not make them an emperor. So was the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God – He was given power by the Father, but as Jesus said himself: he could do nothing of his own authority. It is no insult to believe that Jesus was the Son of God. This is how he spoke of himself. *(Sitting down)*

LUCIUS: *(stands up and makes his arguments with emotion – he is heated and passionate)* My lord, it is a sad that a man could believe that the central *mystery* of the Christian faith is as simple as Paulus implies. To even suggest that Jesus is only a man is to insult the eternal Godhead! My study has revealed that because of his extraordinary love for us, God the Father did a most unthinkable thing: He descended into human flesh and became the man Jesus Christ to free us from sin and death. He suffered on our behalf so

that we may gain eternal life! *(Pause)* And there are some in this very room *(glare at Paulus)* who seek to make the sacrifice of God of no value by implying that Jesus was only a man, *not* a divine being. Those who say and teach otherwise *(with a glance of disgust towards Paulus, then back to Constantine – he’s trying to use a “scare tactic” on Constantine)* will surely feel God’s wrath and suffer the consequences.*(Sits down)*

(Paulus stands up to give second speech. Lights dim)

(Narration is played while Paulus motions in the darkness as though he is continuing his arguments. As narration comes to an end, Lucius stands up, interrupting Paulus (still with lights dim) and when narration concludes, lights come on and Lucius immediately begins speaking.)

LUCIUS: I cannot emphasize enough that this insulting rebellion must not be allowed to continue. If it is, we will all suffer the consequences – including you, my lord, **and** your empire. *(Sits down)*

HELENA whispers into CON’s ear before passing him a scroll.

CON: *(standing up in front of stage)* I have considered all that has been said here today. With the wisdom of the counsel of those educated in such matters, as well as the discretion I have as Emperor of Rome, I hereby declare: *(turns to look at Helena (she nods) before he starts reading from scroll)*

There is only one God, the Father Almighty, the maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. There is also only one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds and is God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God. Jesus of Nazareth was begotten, *(glare at Paulus)* not made, and is of one substance with the Father Himself. The Holy God, for the sake of sinful man, came down from heaven and was crucified for man, taking upon Himself the sins of man.

(Paulus drops his head into his hands in disbelief)

The Roman Empire will not insult God by denying that Jesus is God. No man could do what Jesus Christ did; it was surely the act of God Himself. *(With confidence, no wavering)* This is my ruling on the matter and it will stand.

(Music comes on quietly)

(Pause) Those who dare to believe doctrine different than what is said today, I declare to be heretics and enemies of the Roman Empire. From this day forth, all those who teach that Jesus Christ is only the Son of God and not a part of God Himself will be punished for their false doctrine. Such lies will not be permitted within my Empire. Those heretics who refuse to support the words I declare today will be exiled.

(Paulus’ extras stand up from bench, one of them touches him gently on the arm. Paulus turns around to see his extras ready to leave. He turns to look at Lucius one last time and then is pulled gently by an extra out the door while shaking his head.)

(Lucius and his extras rise from the bench at the same time as Paulus’ extras leave. They shake hands with one another and pat each other on the back while bowing to the Emperor.)

Lights fade

Scene 2

BAKER: *(Enters stage left with trolley) (sits down, massaging ankles)* Oh my achy ankles, I really must invest in some compression socks for this job. *(standing up, stretching, getting back to work)* But a good baker will always rise to the occasion...it's the yeast they can do. *(mixing ingredients on trolley)*

The "heretics" that Constantine exiled from his kingdom would stand in opposition to the evils of the apostate church for the next 1260 years. While not always faithful to the gospel of Christ, this group of witnesses recognized the evils of the Catholic system and came to the defense of the true followers of the Lord Jesus while opposing the harlot system. *(measuring/adding ingredients to mixing bowl in the background)*

(Witnesses with Bible in hand enter from three different locations and meet at the top of the stairs)

WITNESS 1: *(enters stage right)* Prayer in a barn is just as effective as prayer offered in a church!

WITNESS 2: *(enters stage left)* Agreed! And relics are nothing more than rotten bones that belong to who knows who!

WITNESS 3: *(enters in front of stage right)* Absolutely! We are no longer content to leave our eternal salvation in the hands of those immoral priests!

(Pope marches on stage left, followed by his soldiers)

POPE: *(screaming)* Heretics! Burn them alive!

(Pope's men chase them off stage right)

POPE: These workers of the devil are not content with the lot our God has given to them. *(piously)* We must blot out their very existence from the earth, and offer them as a sacrifice to God.

BAKER: *(Looking up from his measuring, interested)* But as Rev. 11:5-6 says, God would give this "witness power" the ability to take peace from the earth, and avenge his persecuted saints.

(Pope's guards come running back through door stage right, being chased by witnesses bearing weapons; guards exit stage left, witnesses stop centre stage)

WITNESS 1: We will end religious oppression! *(ripping apart cross)*

WITNESS 2: We will remove all traces of Roman Catholic ritual...! *(ripping apart rosary)*

WITNESS 3: ...yes! The mass...worship of images, and Mary, and saints. We will replace it with the Bible's teachings and practices!

(Witnesses rush out stage left chasing soldiers, stage hand comes out to collect trolley)

BAKER: *(speaking to stagehand)* 350 for one hour, or two weeks at room temperature *(stage hand pushes trolley off stage)*

And so for 1260 years this power struggle continued, finally climaxing in the most Catholic country in the world – France. France had been given the title “firstborn son of the Church,” and for many years had used its military might to enforce Catholic laws and fight the Pope’s wars. But times have changed, and for these last 10 years opposition has been growing as more and more French men and women read their Bibles and realize that the Catholic Church needs a radical cleansing of its impurities. Henry, King of Navarre, a small but important French province, has joined the anti-Catholic group known as the Huguenots. How you say “Hugo-**not**” ...but it’s not Huguen**ot**, it’s Huguenot, you know. So on the count of “trois” I want you to say Huguenot. *(Counting with audience- un, deux, trois)* Tres bien. *(Trolley brought back out with undecorated cake on it)* Ah merci, the cake, it looks very good.

(Baker begins adding decorations to cake while speaking)

With almost ½ of the French nobility becoming Huguenot, and his army severely weakened from years of war, the king of France is desperate for a peace treaty. As Rev. 11 tells us, the witness power finishes their testimony, and in an attempt to bring peace to a war-torn country, a peace treaty is made; and we all know that the best peace treaties are made through a marriage alliance. Henry, king of Navarre, has agreed to marry the king’s sister – Marguerite de Valois. A very not nice women, but even worst was her mother. With the nuptials near, a large number of Huguenot nobles have come with their king to Paris to celebrate his wedding.

Ugh weddings, if my life wasn’t already busy enough – now to prepare all the extra food for the endless banquets and dinners – not to mention the wedding cake! I’m a gluten for punishment *(departs pushing trolley stage right)*

(Optional additional lines – see video for ideas)

SCENE 3:

(Henry enters stage left followed by Francis and Phillippe carrying heavy suitcases and bags. Henry takes gloves off and inspects the room. Francis and Phillippe look around suspiciously, not pleased to be there.)

COLIGNEY: *(Entering stage right)* Henry, my King. *(kneeling & bowing)* Thanks to God for your safe arrival. I trust you had a comfortable trip from Navarre? I pray your marriage might finally allow our Protestant brethren across France to have peace to worship God.

HENRY: Thank you Coligney – I am glad at least *some* of my men are happy for my upcoming marriage. *(Looks darkly at Francis)*

FRANCIS: *(frustrated)* Henry – you can not still be serious about marrying the French princess!?! She is the daughter of that beast Catharine D’Minci – you know that they say she murdered your mother! Her heart is like a bottomless pit. How can we trust her and be sure this isn’t a plot to murder us all in our sleep?

HENRY: *(Interrupting)* Enough Francis! I don’t need any more reasons to despise my future wife – or her mother. Tomorrow, I am to marry the princess of France – it will bring peace to our Protestant brothers and give us Huguenots a platform to preach our message.

COLIGNY: *(trying to reassure)* The Queen Mother swore by God’s bone that this marriage would take place with her blessing – what other assurances can we ask for? We are no safer here then we were in

Navarre – at least the King of France has developed a confidence in my council. He fears his mother Catharine growing too powerful again. We are safe while King Charles still trusts in me.

HENRY: Thank you. Good night men. *(bows his head to his men, departs stage right while Coligny/Philippe/Francis carry bags out stage left)*

SCENE 4:

MARGOT enters with BRIDESMAID'S trailing behind her

BRIDESMAID 1: *(carrying wedding dress)* Princess, please come try on your wedding dress again

BRIDESMAID 2: *(trying to brush MARGOT hair)* It is so beautiful – it is sure to cheer you up

MARGOT: *(angrily)* I will not, now or ever, consent to be married to that Protestant Pig! *(CHARLES and CATHARINE enter and MARGOT changes her tone)* Charles *(turning to hug him)*, my dear brother *(weeping while looking up to her brother)* – you know how much I love you, how I love Paris – please do not make me marry that boar of a man – to have to go to that backwater swamp of Navarre.

CHARLES: *(pulling her away to look at her tenderly)* Marguerite, sister, Princess of France – I trusted you with my kingdom while I was away at war – you know I love you – **but** Coligny says a marriage between a Catholic and Protestant is the **only** path to a lasting peace for our nation.

CATHARINE: *(stamping her foot)* Pff, “Coligney says.” *(spits)* ‘Coligney says,’ and you swoon at his words – I, **your mother**, the queen of France have arranged this marriage. I was the one who convinced his Huguenot mother to come to Paris and make peace – and yet you cast me aside, make me unimportant, I who bare you – I who protected your throne from all those vipers wishing to destroy you as a boy King. *(weeps pathetically into handkerchief)*

CHARLES: *(rolling eyes)* Oui, oui, mother, everyone knows the lengths you went to secure our family on the throne of France – however Coligny KNOWS how to work with these Protestant fanatics – he IS one of these fanatics. BUT, *(slowly)* he is also loyal to the throne, and to moi. I need him close to me.

CATHARINE: It is not possible – to be loyal to both the Protestant cause and the throne of France. If you are with *them* – you are against *us*, both politically and religiously.

HENRY DUKE OF GUISE: *(entering stage right, kneels and bows)* My King, I have come to let you know that Henry of Navarre has arrived with his Protestant entourage...including Coligny.

CHARLES: *(sighing)* Thank you Guise. *(turning to mom and sister)* Now, I’m tired, I am going to bed. Tomorrow is your wedding – we have 3000 Protestant wedding guests to entertain over this next week. Let us all get our rest, especially you my young bride *(rubs his sisters cheek affectionately)*.

(Marguarite vents her frustration audibly and stamps her foot before rushing out stage left)

CHARLES: *(Sighing)* Talk to her mother, she inherits her iron will from you! *(departs stage left)*

CATHARINE: *(slowly rubbing her hands elegantly)* Guise – you and I have never been friends. Let's not pretend – but now, we must put aside our differences – we have a common enemy and Coligny has too much influence over our King.

HENRY DUKE OF GUISE: *(contemplatively)* Yes, you are right. Charles is a good King – a young king – he has such a long and prosperous reign ahead of him. But you and I both know, much could happen day by day. If anything was to happen to him before his son grows up. That would be most unfortunate. Now he is bringing a Protestant into the family – right into your bosom. Would he risk everything for this so-called peace?

CATHARINE: For 200 years, our family has ruled France. We shall talk again on this matter.

(Catharine departs stage left, Henry Duke of Guise stage right)

SCENE 5:

Wedding Ceremony. Wedding music playing. Two thrones set up on left side of stage on an angle, bench with cushion centre stage near the front on an angle. Processional – walking in front of stage and up the stairs. Priest first, King Charles (very cheerful) followed by Coligny, Catharine and Henry, Duke of Guise, pause – Henry, King of Navarre with Philippe and Francis, pause – Marguerite, two bridesmaids

Henry & Margot kneel before bench in front of priest. King & Catharine sit on throne. Everyone else standing around/behind throne.

PRIEST: Welcome madams and monsieurs to the wedding ceremony of Henry, King of Navarre and Marguerite of Valois, Princess of France.

Henry, King of Navarre – do you accept Marguerite of Valois, Princess of France, to be your wife before God and these witnesses?

HENRY: I accept.

PRIEST: Marguerite of Valois, Princess of France, do you accept Henry, King of Navarre to be your husband before God and these witnesses?

Marguerite stares straight ahead in stony silence. Henry turns to look at her.

PRIEST: *(confused and stumbling slightly)* Well, uh, Marguerite of Valois, Princess of France, do you accept Henry, King of Navarre to be your husband before God and these witnesses?

Marguerite turns and looks at King Charles (her brother) angrily, before staring straight ahead.

King Charles jumps up off his throne and pushes her head into the pillow her arms are resting on – forcefully nodding her head in assent.

CHARLES : *(angrily)* She accepts.

PRIEST: Well, before God and these witnesses I pronounce you man and wife.

Henry stands up and holds out his hand to Marguerite, she turns away. King Charles jumps up happily.

CHARLES: Fantastique, the happy couple, time for the wedding painter. Where is the royal painter? Painter, painter...

Royal painter enters and gets set up.

CHARLES: *(Enthusiastically, oblivious to the displeasure of everyone else)* There he is, the happy bride next to your husband *(placing MARG. next to HENRY, she quickly moved away.)* Mother, Coligny next to mother *(Mother quickly moves to next to bridesmaids)*

Once Charles has everyone placed, he comes to stand between HENRY and MARG. with arms around both.

CHARLES: There we go, we are all ready. And smile...on the count of three I want you all to say Fromage. Un, deux, trois – FROMAGE *(he smiles happily while everyone else looks sullen and displeased)*

Cast all leaves as baker enters.

SCENE 6 :

BAKER: *(stage hands push trolley in with royal wedding cake on it while Baker starts lines)* Ah Weddings! Such joy and happiness! The wine! The music! The cake! Do you know how many egg it took to make that cake? *(Asks audience)* 1260! Do you know how long it took the royal chickens to lay those eggs? 42 months!

It is not a proper French wedding without at least a week of feasting. And what a week it has been! *(takes hat off to pat sweat off of brow, adds the groom and bride cake toppers).* A heat wave has hit Paris like we have never known, and the heat has fanned the flames of emotion, and shortened tempers – outbursts between the Catholic and Huguenot wedding guests are common. *(pushes trolley off stage)*

(Francis & Huguenot guests enter stage left talking in whispers; Pierre & Catholic guests enter stage right, eating cake happily.)

PIERRE: Ohhh, poor, poor Huguenots. I'd look as sad as you do too, if my King had betrayed his faith and married his enemy. Oh well, it won't be long before Marguarite turns the heart of your King and he kneels before the Pope.

FRANCIS: *(Angrily steps out from the guests pushing plate of cake into the hands of his friends)* Never! Henry would never betray our God by kneeling to that imposter.

PIERRE: *(casually, while he eats cake)* Oh that's one thing I love about you Huguenots – you have not lost your faith in God, like we Catholics have *(laughing).*

FRANCIS: *(stepping closer)* You won't be laughing if anything should happen to your King! Henry is already in line for the throne through blood – now also through marriage. It'll be a sad day in Paris when he rules on the throne of France.

PIERRE: *(Angrily throwing plate of food to ground)* TREASON! You weak, pathetic fool *(shouts while running and tackles Francis)*

(Pierre and Francis roll around on the floor fighting while both group of guests cheer on their champion, they wrestler through the door of stage right while guests eat cake and cheer, exit after them on stage right)

(Catharine sitting on throne fanning herself. Henry Duke of Guise enters.)

HENRY DUKE OF GUISE: *(eating a piece of cake)* Enjoying the festivities, my queen? The palace kitchen has outdone itself.

CATHARINE: *(sharply)* Of course they have – we only have the best. *(pauses, frustrated)* All this heat is overwhelming! Charles has always had a weak constitution. This heat cannot be good for him.

HENRY DUKE OF GUISE: Always the concerned mother. *(pause)* I thought you would be rather more concerned with your son's growing dependence on Coligny. I noticed they were in meetings together all day today, **again**.

CATHARINE: Guise, your hatred for Coligny is second only to mine. I fear my son is becoming too independent of my influence. Tomorrow at noon, Coligny will be returning to his lodgings after meeting with the king. Have a man ready on the second floor of the state building. He is not to miss his target. We cannot have an injured Coligny rallying his troops – they will be screaming for our heads.

HENRY DUKE OF GUISE: *(nodding)* I know just the man. Leave it with me my queen. *(departs)*

SCENE 7:

Coligny and his men walk in front of stage right.

COLIGNEY: The king was very understanding. He is willing to compensate for the loss at Vassery. He even had an interesting perspective on the Orleans situation.....

Assassin enters thru door stage left, shooting Coligny as he passes by. Assassin drops gun and runs.

COLIGNEY'S MAN: TREASON! TREASON!! *(chases after the assassin; other 2 men grab him as he falls)*

COLIGNEY: It's not fatal – carry me to my rooms, Phillipe, run to fetch the doctor!

(they carry him up the stairs and put him on table. Doctor comes in with Phillipe. Men lock the doors and set lookouts, look worried as doctor looks Coligny over).

DOCTOR: Well you're very lucky. I have removed the bullet from his elbow and will only have to remove one finger. *(Looking at the men)* He must be kept resting and in complete quiet. I will come and check on him this evening.

(Doctor leaves after Francis unlocks the door)

PHILIPPE: *(with increasing anger)* This is GUISE' doing. I know he's behind it! We must go to the king and demand revenge!

FRANCIS: *(angrily)* As the good Book says – an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth! They hit us, we will hit them back harder!

COLIGNEY: *(lifts himself up off the bed; very weak)* Men – take no action. We come in peace, as guests of the king. Go to the king and ask for an investigation on my behalf. I plead for him to come and see me. His face would brighten my countenance.

(they carry him off on the table, stage right)

SCENE 8:

(King Charles sitting on throne, limply crying into handkerchief. Margot pacing back and forth, folding her hands frantically. Catharine sitting on her throne, tapping foot impatiently. Guise enters stage left.)

GUISE: My King, I just heard the news – how difficult this must be for you. We all know how much Coligney meant to you.

MARGOT: *Means* to him. He's not dead yet, Guise. There is still hope.

CATHARINE: *(standing up, sharply)* Charles – pull yourself together. You must be strong for our country. The Huguenots – my informers tell me they are angry – they are demanding blood. My advisers expect them to avenge Coligney and attack the royal family. If they get word sent to their armies, the royal soldiers do not stand a chance.

GUISE: My king, if this is true, it could be the end for all of us! We must strike first and wipe out the Huguenot leaders while they are still in Paris.

MARGOT: And what of my husband? Was I married, just to become a widower?

GUISE: Have no fear – your husband will live; he is still useful to us – if he chooses to confess his sins and renounce his Protestant faith.

(Margot storms off)

CATHARINE: *(leaning in close to Charles)* We don't need to kill many. Charles – give the order. Allow us to get rid of the leaders – the top 14 – we'll even allow your precious Coligney to live. But now is our chance – before they strike us! The Huguenot armies are strong –

GUISE: *(Interrupting, leaning in close to Charles on the other side)* Holland, England, Switzerland, Germany

CATHARINE: *(leaning in on other side of Charles)* They all are sympathetic to their Protestant faith.

CHARLES: *(Long pause. Hesitantly, through tears)* Go, you must go, in order to keep peace. Our country must be united in the Catholic faith. We are the firstborn son of the Church – we are to protect the faith! *(pausing again, deliberately now)* But you must *not* allow Coligney to live – I would never be able to look him in the face again. My shame would kill me!

Catharine and GUISE look at each other, smile and nod.

King departs in grief

GUISE: *(Speaking to Catharine)* I will take the royal soldiers and carry out the king's orders *(departs down the stairs happily)*

SCENE 9:

*Bells start ringing. Coligny in his bed brought back onto stage.
Guise and royal soldiers come out stage left and go out to back of audience.
Soldiers turn to face Guise.*

GUISE: Kill them all! Kill them all!! It is the king's command!

Soldiers march up to the stairs. Shouting. Coligny pulls himself up weakly in his bed...

COLIGNEY: In the name of God – show mercy!

*Soldiers beat him, stab him, throw him onto floor behind bed. Soldiers pick up body and carry it to front of stage, swing it 1-2-3 onto ground in front of audience.
Guise stands at front of stage...*

Soldiers jump off stage shouting "kill them, kill them all!"

BAKER: *(Running on stage, stage hands bring cake on once stage cleared)* What began as an attempt to prevent a Huguenot retaliation soon spiraled into a mass uprising of the passionately Catholic people of Paris. Over night, normal people – blacksmiths, laundrywomen, perfumers and even some bakers – turned into monsters intent on slaughtering every last man, woman and child within the city who professed to be a Protestant... The cake – it is not safe – I must hide the cake...some of it...a little bit*(picks up cake off of trolley to run away with it, trips and falls as he runs through the door offstage, shouts/screams as cake smashes)*

Common people from the audience jump up on chairs one at a time with swords

COMMONER 1: The King has commanded to kill the heretics!

COMMONER 2: Death to the rebels!

COMMONER 3: Paris will be purely Catholic by the morning!

Extras stand up one by one on their chairs chanting "Kill them, Kill them all" repeatedly as Huguenots all flee from audience – some to onto stage, some backstage to wait)

On stage, Huguenot family all congregates. Huguenot 1 runs in.

HUGUENOT 1: Come, come quickly! There is no time to lose. We must all be gone, take nothing with you. Escape, escape while you have a chance – there are few safe routes out of the city, but take the ones we planned for. Quickly – flee to England, Holland, Switzerland! They will all welcome you, but leave now – they are having no mercy on even the women and children!

Some of the family leaves stage left. While some remain, soldiers enter stage right...

SOLDIER 1: Ahh – this is where you've been hiding!

HUGUENOT 1: *(pulls his sword out)* We would rather *die* than abandon our God and our faith!

SOLDIERS enter up stairs.

HUGUENOT WOMAN: *(screaming)* We're trapped! *(is killed)*

Huguenot men all pull out swords.

HUGUENOT 2: *(as he's dying)* You might be able to kill us, but you'll never bury our message!

HUGUENOT 3: *(as he's fighting)* The world will see what you've done here this night, and they will not forget! *(dies)*

(Soldiers run down stairs in front of stage – happily – shouting “Kill them, Kill them all!”)

HUGUENOT EXTRAS run onto stage to see dead bodies, some mourn, some hide “they're going to kill us”

COMMON PERSON: (Entering with sword) Heretics! (Kills all extras and departs)

SCENE 10:

Catharine enter stage right; walking amidst dead bodies.

CATHARINE: Beautiful. Beautiful! It is a gift to our God.

CHARLES: *(entering weakly in horror)* What have I done!? What have I done!? What bloodshed! What murder! What evil counsel I have followed. *(falling on his knees, crying)* O God – how will He ever forgive me?!

CATHARINE: *(walking away)* I have a *lunatic* for a son! Soldier – come here. *(Soldier 2 comes)* Can you ride?

SOLDIER 2: Yes my queen.

CATHARINE: Ride for Rome. Tell the Pope all you have witnessed here. Tell him 3000 have died in one night as a gift to our God.

Soldier 2 leaves.

CATHARINE hits CHARLES over the head

CATHARINE: Pull yourself together. You are the King – all this was done on your orders.

CATHARINE leaves, CHARLES following sniveling, Stagehands drag all dead bodies off stage.

Pope standing, talking to a Cardinal. Soldier runs in.

SOLDIER 2: *(falling, bowing)* Your holiness. I have ridden for days. I bring news from Queen Catharine of France. The Huguenots in Paris have been slaughtered! Coligny and all the leaders are no more! The people of Paris joined the king's soldiers in cleansing the city! The massacre has continued throughout France – every Huguenot stronghold has been annihilated. The few who are left have fled from France.

POPE: *(Happily)* The joy of Rome knows no bounds!

Cardinal pulls out bag of money, hands it to the soldier.

CARDINAL: A thousand crowns for the messenger of this good news!

POPE: *(at front and center stage)* People of Rome – today we commemorate a joyous occasion! France has been cleansed. A new coin has been stamped to remember this wonderful occasion. *(throws pocketfuls of coins into audience)* Witness the paintings commissioned for the Vatican to remember this victory for the Church. Let the bell of every steeple ring with this news!

Bells start ringing. Cardinal and Pope exit stage, while Cardinal chants...

CARDINAL: *(pre-recorded soundtrack)* Te Deum...

Pope waves happily at the audience, they walk off stage stairs, in front of audience, throwing coins into audience then exits left in front of stage.

SCENE 11:

Baker enters with smashed cake on platter.

BAKER: *(crying)* What began in Paris over one night spread to every part of France. The wedding alliance was a complete failure – like rotten food France was made to stink to the surrounding nations who looked on in horror at the atrocities committed against the innocent, defenseless men and women who lost their lives. *(walks off stage)*

Individuals (representing countries) in audience stand up on chairs waving flags

SWISS: Switzerland welcomes the remaining Huguenots! 70,000 innocent people slain!

BRITISH: England stands by her Protestant brethren! This is a stain on the Catholic Church!

DUTCH: The Netherlands acknowledges the injustice and welcomes the Huguenots to our country!

Baker enters

BAKER: And so the people of France were never able to forget the terrible crime they committed. As Revelation 11 says, the dead bodies lay in the streets of the city as a constant reminder of the deaths of those who fought for a God-fearing Monarchy and a cleansed Church.

By the time the Huguenots were silenced once and for all, it would be another 105 years before the dead bodies rose again, which Revelation 11 refers to as “3 ½ days”. This rising again happened when the people of France stood up together upon their feet – tired of the corrupt Monarchy and immoral Church; tired of the endless taxation and lack of food – and they carried the rallying cry of the Huguenots.

Stagehand brings trolley out with fresh baking ingredients.

But enough with the bad news...we have some good news!

France has been at war with Austria for years – but a peace treaty has just been struck – and we all know from experience that the best peace treaties come with a marriage alliance.

The French Prince has been promised in marriage to the little Austrian Princess – Princess Maria Antoinette, they say she looks like a doll.

I am busier now more than ever, preparing food for the upcoming wedding – I hear she especially likes cake (*mixes ingredients silently during final narration*)

Baker exits as narration ends